पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री (श्री बी. शंकरानन्द) : (क) जी, नहीं ।

(ख) मौजूदा डीलरशिप/ डिस्ट्रीब्यूटरशिप के समाप्त होने पर नए डीलर की नियुक्ति की जाती है ।

(ग) विपणन अनुशासन दिशा-निर्देशों के अनुसार ऐसा अधिकारी अनियमितताओं की जांच कर सकता है जो तेल उद्योग में बिक्री अधिकारी के रंक से तथा राज्य सरकार के खाद्य एवं सिविल आपूर्ति विभाग में निरीक्षक के रंक से नीचे का नहीं ।

(घ) खुदरा बिक्री केन्द्र के 895 मामले तथा एल०पी०जी० डिस्ट्रीब्यूटरशिप के 298 मामले ।

(ङ) जी, नहीं ।

Setting tip of oil refineries

1374. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have liberalised the hydrocarbon sector and have decided in principle to allow private and foreign investments in setting-up of refineries, development of discovered oil fields and exploration of oil blocks;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the status of setting-up of oil refinery and oil exploration program-arej in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKAR AN AND): fa) and (b) Yes, Sir. Apart from the Fourth Round of bidding under which negotiations are being held with bidders to finalise contracts. Go-vernt have decided to offer exploration acreage- to private companies on a contimtons round-the-year basis. A decision has also been taken to develop certain medium sized discovered oilfields in joint venture with private companies and to offer certain small sized oil gas fields to private companies for development on a production sharing basis. A decision has also been taken to set up refineries in joint venture with private companies.

(c) Two blocks in the Orissa onshore were offered in the Fourth Round of bidding but no offers were received for these blocks. A site selection Committee has been constituted to identify suitable location for 6 million tonnes proposed grassroot refinery to *be* set up in Eastern India during Eighth Ninth Plan Period.

NRI investment for oil refineries

1375. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SA HU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to stute:

(a) whether Government have allowed agreed in principle to allow NRI investment participation for oil refinery projects; and

(b) if so. what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND). (a) and (b) Government have approved setting up of three new grassroot refineries, each with a capacity of 6 MMTPA as 8th Plan projects as Joint Ventures with suitable private parties in India or abroad. Proposals from private sector companies who can bring in technology and investment in the area also considered.

Supply of Gas to Tata Electric Company

1376. SHRI V1REN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has, been drawn to the news report which published in the Financial Express of 3rd July. 1992 under the caption "ONGC cuts supply to Tata Electric";

(b) if so. what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the cut in gas supply to the TFC has resulted in cut in electricity supply in Bombay and other areas causing great incon venience to public;

(d) whether the representative of the\ Maharashtra Government has recently approached his Ministry regarding the curtailment of gas to TEC;

(e) if so, what are the details of the discussion and the results thereof; and

(f) by when the gas supply to TEC is. likely to be restored?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Gas supply to M/s Tata Electric Company (TEC) has been res-jicted due to a temporary constraint of gas supplies at Uran and arrangements for alternative fuel to the extent of restriction in gas supply, have been made as M/s, TEC are designed to use alternative fuels for generation power.

(f) Gas supply to M/s TEC will be restored as soon as gas availability at

गैस के नये कनैक्शन

1377. **श्री कैलाश नारायण सारंग:** क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि पिछले कई वर्षों से गैस के नये कनेक्शन नहीं दिये जा रहे हैं ; यदि हां, तो गैस के नये कनेक्शन कब तक दिये जाने की संभावना है ;

(ख) मध्य प्रदेश में कितने तहसील मुख्यालयों गैस के वितरकों की नियुक्ति की गई ई ; क्या शेष तहसील मुख्यालयों में भी गैस के वितरकों की नियुक्ति किये जाने का कोई प्रस्ताव है, यदि हां, तो इनकी नियुक्ति कब तक कर दी जायेगी ; और

(ग) मध्य प्रदेश में 30 जून, 1992 की स्थिति के अनुसार गैस कनेक्शनों की प्रतीक्षा सूची में कितने व्यक्तियों के नाम शामिल थे और इन व्यक्तियों को गैस कनेक्शन कब तक प्रदान कर दिये जाने की संभावना है ?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री (श्री बी. शंकरानन्द) : (क) एल०पी० जी० कनेक्शन देने पर कोई रोक नहीं है। तथापि दिए गए कनेक्शनों की संख्या उत्पाद की उपलब्धता के अध्यधीन है ।

(ख) वर्तमान नीति के अनुसार डीलरशिप की आर्थिक व्यवहार्यता और उत्पाद की उपलब्धता होने पर 20,000 और उससे अधिक जनसंख्या वाले शहरों/ नगरों में चरणों में यथासंभव एल०पी०जी० की सुविधा दी जाती है । यह राज्य के वास्तविक/प्रशासनिक प्रभागों पर आधारित नहीं हैं ।

(ग) 1-4-1992 के अनुसार मध्य प्रदेश की प्रतीक्षा सूची में 3981 लाख आवेदक हैं । उत्पाद की उपलब्धता होने पर अधिकतम आवेदकों को एल०पी०जी० कनैक्शन यथाशीघ्र देने के निरंतर प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं ।

LPG Production

1378. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of PETRO-LEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the constraints in sanc tioning liberally L.P.G. connections to all applicants;

(b) what steps are being taken to improve the production of L.P.G. to meet the growing demand; and

(c) what action is being taken against the dealers of L.P.G. who insist on more illegal payment for new L.P.G. connections?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Demand of LPG far exceeds the availability, both from indigenous sources, as well as from imports.

(b) Plans have been drawn to augment indigenous LPG production by commis-sioning new sources and augmenting, the capacity of existing sources.